IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1-34 without prejudice.

Add new claims 35-51 as follows:

35. A pharmaceutical formulation for parenteral administration comprising a pure solid state alkaline salt of the (-)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole as active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

36. A pharmaceutical formulation for parenteral administration comprising a sterile injection solution comprising a pure solid state alkaline salt of the (-)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole as active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent having a volume sufficient to effect a solution having a concentration of 0.1 to 10% by weight of the active ingredient.

37. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 35 or 36, wherein the solid state salt is optically pure.

~~38. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 35 or 36, wherein the alkaline salt is a Na^+, Mg^{2+}, Li^+, K^+, Ca^{2+} or $N^+(R)_4$ salt.~~

39. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim ~~35~~ or ~~36~~, wherein the solid state salt is in substantially crystalline form.

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40. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 35 or 36, wherein the alkaline salt is a sodium salt.

41. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 35 or 36, further comprising a stabilizing agent, a buffering agent or a mixture thereof.

42. A method of inhibiting gastric acid secretion comprising the parenteral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a pure solid state alkaline salt of the (-)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

43. A method for the treatment of gastrointestinal inflammatory disease comprising the parenteral administration to a mammal including man in need of such treatment of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a pure solid state alkaline salt of the (-)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2- pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

44. A method for the treatment of gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases comprising the parenteral administration to a mammal including man in need of such treatment a composition comprising an effective amount of the pure (-)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

45. A method of inhibiting gastric acid secretion comprising the parenteral administration of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the pure (-)-enantiomer of 5-

~~methoxy-2[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1*H*-benzimidazole, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.~~

~~46. The method of claim 42 or 43 wherein the alkaline salt is a Na^+, Mg^{2+}, Li^+, K^+, Ca^{2+} or $N^+(R)_4$ salt.~~

47. The method according to ~~claims 42-44 or 45~~ claim 42 or 43, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is in the form of a solvent.

48. The method according to ~~claims 42-44 or~~ claim 42 or 43, wherein a solution with a solvent carrier is effected immediately before the administration.

49. The method of claim ~~42-44 or 45~~ 42 or 43, wherein the solvent has a volume effecting a solution of a concentration of 0.1-10% by weight of the active ingredient.

50. The pharmaceutical formulation for parenteral administration according to claim ~~35~~ 1, comprising an injectable solution.

51. A method for treating gastrointestinal disease comprising injecting a sterile solution of the composition according to ~~claims 42-44 or~~ claim 42 or 43 45.

REMARKS

I. Lineage of Referenced Application

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted with Applicants' request for the filing of a new continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) which is a continuation of U.S. Patent

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Application Serial No. 08/899,931, filed July 24, 1994 (the "'931 application"), which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/376,512, filed January 23, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,714,504, issued February 3, 1998 (the "'504 patent"), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/256,174, filed June 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,693,818, issued December 2, 1997 (the "'818 patent").

II. Procedural History

In the parent '931 application, a final Office Action was mailed on September 18, 1998 according to which the pending claims were rejected on various grounds. A Notice of Appeal was filed on March 17, 1999. Applicants submit that their request for the filing of a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) is a timely reply to the final Office Action.

III. Description of Invention and Pending Claims

Upon entry of the Preliminary Amendment, claims 35-51 are pending in the subject application. The same claims having the same numbering were examined and rejected in the parent '931 application.

Claims 35-41 and 50 are directed to a pharmaceutical formulation for parenteral administration comprising a pure solid state alkaline salt of the (-)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole as the active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Claims 42-49 and 51 are directed to methods of treating gastrointestinal inflammatory disease and inhibiting gastric acid secretion

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